

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2192

To establish a National Panel on Early Reading Research and Effective  
Reading Instruction.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 1997

Mrs. NORTHUP introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To establish a National Panel on Early Reading Research  
and Effective Reading Instruction.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Successful Reading  
5       Research and Instruction Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
8       ings:

9               (1) At least 20 percent, and in some States 50  
10       to 60 percent, of children in elementary school can-

1 not read at basic levels. The children cannot read  
2 fluently and do not understand what they read.

3 (2) Research suggests that the majority of the  
4 children, at least 90 to 95 percent, can be brought  
5 up to average reading skills if—

6 (A) children at risk for reading failure are  
7 identified during the kindergarten and first  
8 grade years; and

9 (B) early intervention programs that com-  
10 bine instruction in phonological awareness,  
11 phonics, and reading comprehension are pro-  
12 vided by well-trained teachers.

13 (3) If the early intervention programs described  
14 in paragraph (2)(B) are delayed until the children  
15 reach 9 years of age (the time that most children  
16 are identified), approximately 75 percent of the chil-  
17 dren will continue to have reading difficulties  
18 through high school.

19 (4) While older children and adults can be  
20 taught to read, the time and expense of doing so is  
21 enormous.

22 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

23 (1) to conduct an assessment of research and  
24 knowledge relevant to early reading development,  
25 and instruction in early reading, to determine the

1 readiness of the research and knowledge for applica-  
2 tion in the Nation's classrooms;

3 (2) if appropriate, to develop a national strat-  
4 egy for the rapid dissemination of the research and  
5 knowledge to teachers and schools throughout the  
6 United States as a means of facilitating effective  
7 early reading instruction; and

8 (3) to develop a plan for additional research re-  
9 garding early reading development, and instruction  
10 in early reading, if the additional research is war-  
11 ranted.

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PANEL.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, or  
14 the Secretary's designee, and the Director of the National  
15 Institute of Child Health and Human Development, or the  
16 Director's designee, jointly shall—

17 (1) establish a National Panel on Early Read-  
18 ing Research and Effective Reading Instruction;

19 (2) establish the membership of the panel in ac-  
20 cordance with subsection (b);

21 (3) select a chairperson of the panel;

22 (4) provide the staff and support necessary for  
23 the panel to carry out the panel's duties; and

1           (5) prepare and submit to Congress a report re-  
2       garding the findings and recommendations of the  
3       panel.

4       (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The panel shall be composed of  
5   15 individuals, who are not officers or employees of the  
6   Federal Government. The panel shall include leading sci-  
7   entists in reading research, representatives of colleges of  
8   education, reading teachers, educational administrators,  
9   and parents.

10      (c) DUTIES.—The panel shall—

11           (1) conduct a thorough study of the research  
12       and knowledge relevant to early reading develop-  
13       ment, and instruction in early reading, including re-  
14       search described in section 9 of the Health Research  
15       Extension Act of 1985 (42 U.S.C. 281 note);

16           (2) determine which research findings and what  
17       knowledge are available for application in the Na-  
18       tion's classrooms; and

19           (3) determine how to disseminate the research  
20       findings and knowledge to the Nation's schools and  
21       classrooms.

22      (d) TERMINATION.—The panel shall terminate 9  
23   months after the date of enactment of this Act.

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